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INFORMATION REPORT

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Thailand COUNTRY

Metirement of Maj. Gen. Luang Phisit witayakarn

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SUBJECT

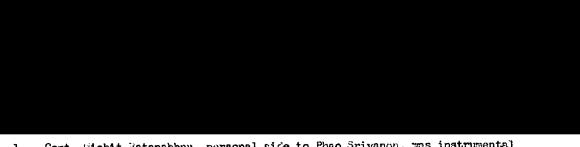
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DATE OF INFO. August 1949

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- Capt. Wichit Natanabhnu, personal aide to Phao Sriyanon, was instrumental in forcing the retirement of Maj. Gen. Luang Phisit Mitayakarn, former head of the Central Investigation Division. Capt. Wichit claimed 60 percent of the 2,000,000 baht reward offered in the Gold Hobbery Case*, on the grounds that he was present with Thai Army Capt. Kamol** when partial recovery of the golu was made. Allegedly, ...ichit wanted the money to finance study abroad. However, Phisit thought that others, including one Capt. Sirichai***, also had lugitimate claims.
- Wichit, disregarding the counsel of Lt. Gen. Luang Chatrakan Kosol, who 2. advised a solution satisfactory to the interests of the state, finally took his case to Phao. Phao personally issued Phisit's retirement order through Banyat Thephassadin, Acting Minister of Interior, with the signed approval of Lt. Gen. Promyothi, Minister of Interior.
- An additional factor in the retirement of Phisit was that Phao and Lt. Col. 3. Lamai Utyanon, head of the Criminal Investigation Division, thought it timely to promote Pichit Thurakarn as a reward for being held accountable for the death of the four Cabinet &inisters on the Bangkhen Death Ride.****
- The retirement order came as a distinct surprise to the Police Department. It also added to existing uneasiness, since it became clear that Phao has the power to remove any member of the Police. Testinony as given at the questioning and later at the Criminal Court legally justified Phisit's retirement.
- Following the ousting of Phisit, Luang Chatrakan submitted his resignation, but Phibul refused to accept it. It is felt that the Thai Police Department would be weakened should Chatrakan resign. No member of the 1947 Coup clique is thought capable of filling the job. Luang Pichit, who is a good policeman, lacks the diplomatic skill to be successful.

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Comment. For further details on the Gold Robbery Case, in May 968, and the activities of Phisit in connection with this case, See

Comment. Kamol was one of the Army officers who participated in the original theft.

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25X1X Comment. There is no further identification of Capt. Sirichai.

the activities of Pichit and the murder of the Cabinet ministers.

